

Submission under 37 C.F.R. §1.114  
Application No. 10/527,694  
Attorney Docket No. 052203

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

#### **Listing of Claims**

Claims 1-3 (Canceled)

Claim 4 (Currently amended): A crosslinked high-molecular-weight product obtained by crosslinking a high-molecular-weight compound with a biological low-molecular-weight compound, the crosslinked high-molecular-weight product comprising a gel that is metabolized in vivo after application in vivo,

wherein the high-molecular-weight compound is collagen,

wherein the biological low-molecular-weight compound is obtained by modifying at least one carboxyl group of malic acid, oxalacetic acid, citric acid, or *cis*-aconitic acid with N-hydroxysuccinimide or N-hydroxysulfosuccinimide,

wherein the crosslinked high-molecular-weight product has a water content of 96 to 98%.

Claim 5-10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (Currently amended): A method for producing a crosslinked high-molecular-weight product comprising:

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reacting 0.001 to 10 percent by weight of malic acid, oxalacetic acid, citric acid, or *cis*-aconitic acid with 0.001 to 10 percent by weight of N-hydroxysuccinimide or N-hydroxysulfosuccinimide in the presence of 0.001 to 20 percent by weight of carbodiimide at a reaction temperature of 0°C to 100°C for a reaction time of 1 to 48 hours to modify at least one carboxyl group of the malic acid, oxalacetic acid, citric acid or *cis*-aconitic acid with N-hydroxysuccinimide or N-hydroxysulfosuccinimide to obtain a biological low-molecular-weight compound; and

crosslinking a high-molecular-weight compound with the biological low-molecular-weight compound so as to yield a crosslinked high-molecular-weight compound comprising a gel that is metabolized *in vivo* after application *in vivo*

wherein the high-molecular-weight compound is collagen, wherein the crosslinked high-molecular-weight product has a water content of 96 to 98%.

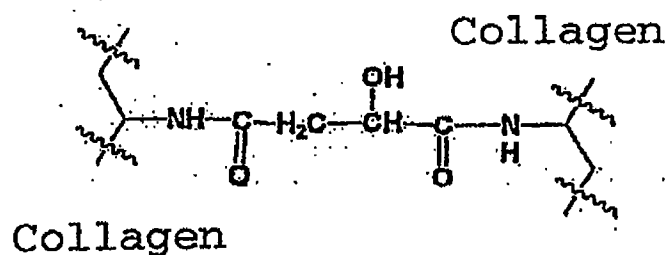
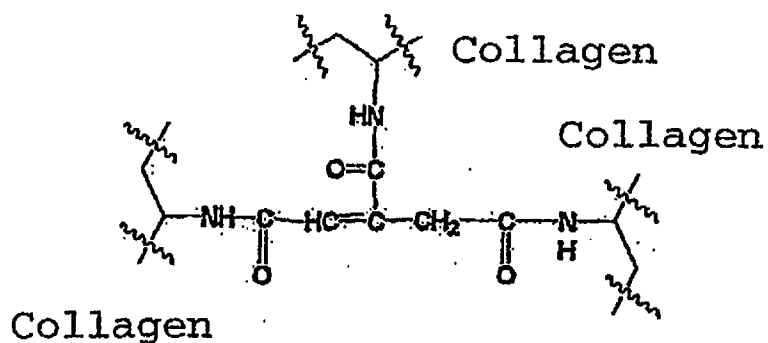
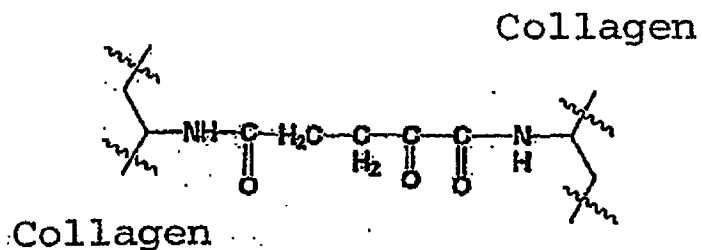
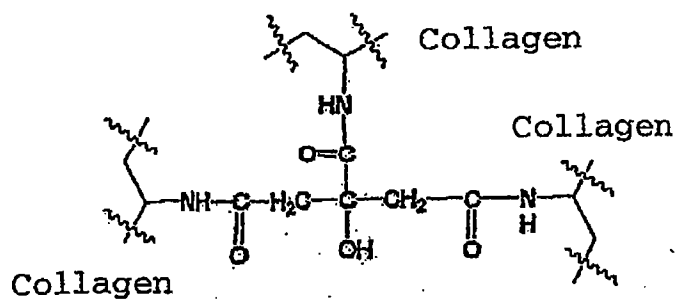
Claims 12-14 (Canceled)

Claim 15 (New): A crosslinked high-molecular-weight product according to claim 4, wherein the crosslinked high-molecular-weight product has a chemical formula selected from the group consisting of:

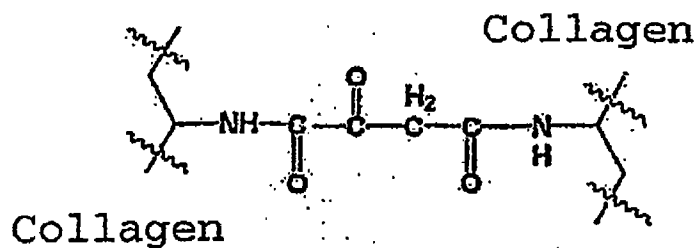
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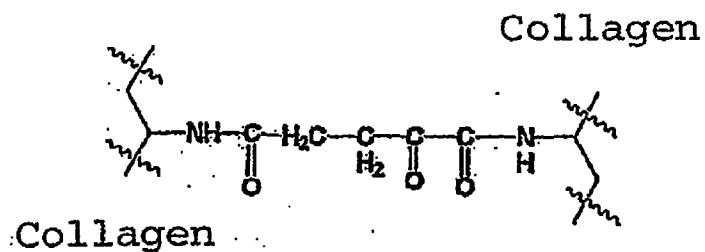
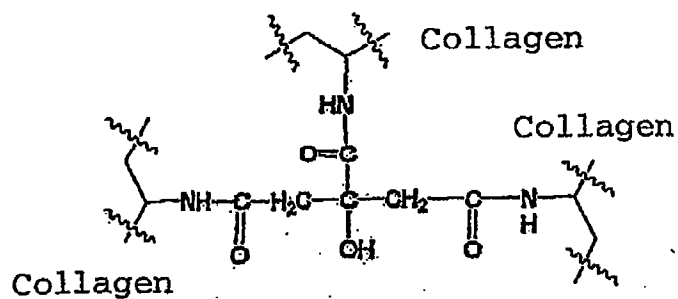
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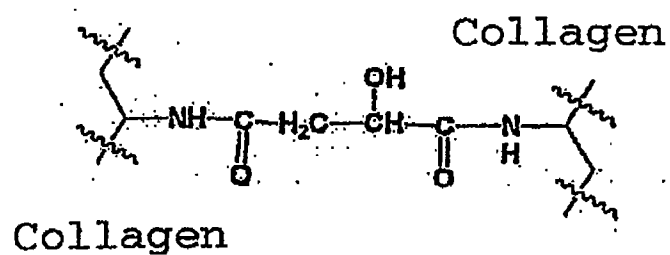
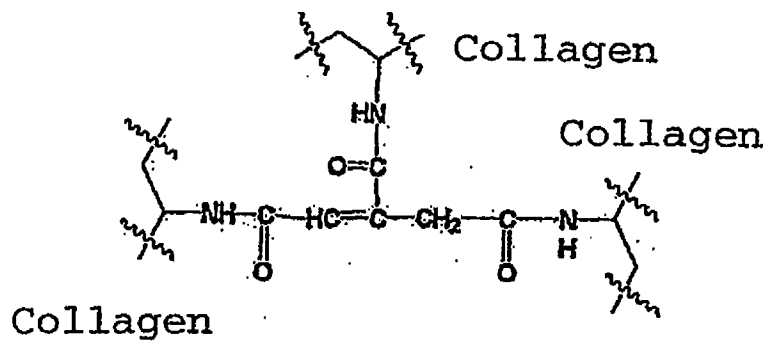
Claim 16 (New): A method for producing a crosslinked high-molecular-weight product according to claim 11, wherein the crosslinked high-molecular-weight product has a chemical formula selected from the group consisting of:



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